

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: [REDACTED], STADIS
Document Number: 1979STATE112667

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

Dφ54

PAGE 01 STATE 112667
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:RSTEVEN:DC
APPROVED BY ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
ARA/AND/CH:LDE0OLD
JUSTICE:ELBARCELLA (SUB)
JUSTICE:EMPROPPER (SUB)
S/S:OWOLLENBORG
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
ARA, D, P, AND L

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

-----046411 040222Z /62

O 040109Z MAY 79 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED] STATE 112667

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

[REDACTED] **DECAPTIONED**

E.O. 12065 12065 XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON
WITH WILLOUGHBY

REF: SANTIAGO 2934

1. (ENTIRE TEXT)

2. FREDERICO WILLOUGHBY ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON SUNDAY
APRIL 29 FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND, APPARENTLY, TO
CONTINUE CAUTIOUS DISCUSSIONS BEGUN IN SANTIAGO REGARDING
FATE OF ARMANDO FERNANDEZ. HE COMMUNICATED WITH ARA/AND
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 STATE 112667

THROUGH HUMBERTO CRESTA, FORMER POLITICAL COUNSELOR

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: [REDACTED] STADIS
Document Number: 1979STATE112667

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

OF CHILEAN EMBASSY. WILLOUGHBY INITIATED DISCUSSION OF CASE WITH ARA/AND DIRECTOR BARNEBEY AT LUNCH HOSTED BY CRESTA ON MAY 3, AFTER WHICH MEETING WAS ARRANGED SAME AFTERNOON WITH FORMER CHILE DESK OFFICER STEVEN AND ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS PROPPER AND BARCELLA.

3. ESSENCE OF MESSAGE BROUGHT BY WILLOUGHBY WAS THAT CERTAIN CIRCLES IN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT IN CHILE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER GROWING UNREST AMONG JUNIOR OFFICER RANKS OF ARMY. ACCORDING

TO WILLOUGHBY, A QUOTE GROUP UNQUOTE OF DISSIDENT YOUNGER OFFICERS WAS RECENTLY FOUND IN NATIONAL SECURITY ACADEMY, AS RESULT OF WHICH DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY WAS BEING REMOVED. MALAISE AMONG YOUNGER OFFICERS WAS DESCRIBED BY WILLOUGHBY AS REACTION FROM EXTREME TENSION OF MOBILIZATION FOR WAR WITH ARGENTINA IN LATE 1978, COMBINED WITH RESENTMENT OVER TREATMENT OF CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ. WILLOUGHBY STATED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FORESTIER WERE AWARE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH USG, BUT BEYOND THEM ONLY FERNANDEZ, HIS LAWYERS, AND THE FERNANDEZ FAMILY WERE INFORMED. WILLOUGHBY DID NOT WISH CHILEAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO KNOW OF HIS DEMARCHE.

4. WILLOUGHBY EXPLAINED HIS OWN INTEREST IN FERNANDEZ AS RELATED TO THE FACT THAT FERNANDEZ WAS CHIEF OF WILLOUGHBY'S SECURITY DETAIL FOR TWO YEARS WHILE WILLOUGHBY WAS JUNTA PRESS SPOKESMAN. HE, WILLOUGHBY, FELT RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOT HAVING DISSUADED FERNANDEZ WHEN FERNANDEZ LEFT THE DETAIL TO JOIN DINA.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 STATE 112667

5. THE MESSAGE CONVEYED BY WILLOUGHBY DID NOT GO MUCH BEYOND THE PROPOSAL RAISED WITH ETCHEBERRY, BUT HE ADDED SOME NEW POINTS. WILLOUGHBY IS CONVINCED AFTER DIRECT TALKS WITH FERNANDEZ THAT THE LATTER DID NOT KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEILLANCE OF LETELIER. FERNANDEZ' LAWYERS HAVE APPROACHED SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT BORQUEZ AND HAVE TOLD HIM THAT FERNANDEZ WOULD BE WILLING TO ADD TO OR AMEND HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE BORQUEZ. FERNANDEZ IS PREPARED TO ADMIT HE SURVEILLED LETELIER ON ORDERS

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: [REDACTED] STADIS
Document Number: 1979STATE112667

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

FROM DINA, BUT THAT HE WAS TOLD THAT THE PURPOSE WAS TO CHECK ON LETELIER'S EFFORTS TO SET UP A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. HE WOULD NOT ADMIT THAT HE KNEW THAT LETELIER WAS TO BE KILLED. BORQUEZ' REACTION IS NOT YET KNOWN TO WILLOUGHBY.

6. WHEN REMINDED THAT THIS WAS BOTH CONTRARY TO THE EVIDENCE IN USG HANDS AND UNATTRACTIVE AS THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT BENEFICIAL TO FERNANDEZ, WILLOUGHBY SAID CLEARLY AND FLATLY THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR REMOVAL OF THE CHARGES AGAINST FERNANDEZ AND RPT AND ESPINOSA, CONTRERAS WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE U.S. HE SAID CONTRERAS IN THE U.S. WAS MUCH LESS OF A POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR THE GOC THAN HE WOULD BE ON TRIAL IN CHILE.

7. PROPPER AND BARCELLA EXPLAINED IN THEIR TURN THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN THE TRUTH FROM FERNANDEZ, HIS TESTIMONY IN THE U.S., AND EXTRADITION OF CONTRERAS AND ESPINOSA

WOULD BE OF NO INTEREST TO THE U.S. WILLOUGHBY SAID THAT FERNANDEZ WOULD TESTIFY VOLUNTARILY IN THE U.S., AND DISPLAYED SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THE QUESTION OF ESPINOSA.

8. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE TIMING OF BORQUEZ' DECISION, WILLOUGHBY GAVE TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 OR 9, AS HIS UNDERSTANDING. HE WOULD NOT SAY WHETHER OR HOW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 STATE 112667

DECISION MIGHT BE DELAYED TO ALLOW TIME FOR NEGOTIATIONS OVER FERNANDEZ, BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT BORQUEZ MIGHT WELL TAKE MORE TIME. WILLOUGHBY THOUGHT THAT IF BORQUEZ PROCEEDED WITHOUT FURTHER EVIDENCE AND WITHOUT A SIGNAL FROM THE GOC, HIS DECISION WOULD BE AGAINST EXTRADITION BUT FOR RPT FOR TRIAL IN CHILE.

9. IN EFFORT TO BREAK IMPASSE OVER KEY POINT OF FERNANDEZ' TESTIMONY CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF INTENT TO KILL LETELIER, PROPPER AND BARCELLA PROPOSED THAT THEY DRAW UP A SHORT LIST OF THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS FOR FERNANDEZ. DEPENDING UPON HOW FERNANDEZ ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY BASIS FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: [REDACTED] STADIS
Document Number: 1979STATE112667

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4
Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

AGREEMENT WITH HIM. WILLOUGHBY ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL PROMPTLY AND ASKED THAT THE QUESTIONS BE CONVEYED TO CHILE THROUGH USG CHANNELS, HE HIMSELF HAVING NEITHER RAPID NOR SECURE MEANS FOR SENDING THEM. HE PROPOSED THAT THE QUESTIONS BE GIVEN TO HIS, WILLOUGHBY'S, WIFE FOR HER TO TAKE TO OR TRANSMIT TO FERNANDEZ AND TO RETURN ANSWERS THROUGH EMBASSY SANTIAGO.

10. BASED UPON RESPONSE TO THESE QUESTIONS, USG COULD DETERMINED IF THERE WAS REASON TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED, TO RECONVENE AT 1500 HOURS FRIDAY, MAY 4 WITH WILLOUGHBY, PROPPER, BARCELLA, AND STEVEN. EITHER DURING EVENING MAY 3 OR EARLY MAY 4, WILLOUGHBY WOULD CONFIRM WITH STEVEN WHETHER, WHERE AND HOW TO DELIVER QUESTIONS.

11. COMMENT: IT IS STILL IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITH CERTAINTY JUST WHAT IS BEHIND THIS INITIATIVE BY WILLOUGHBY, OR HOW SERIOUSLY WE SHOULD TAKE HIS ASSURANCES. WE THINK
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 05 STATE 112667

IT LIKELY THAT HE IS SPEAKING WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND POSSIBLY WITH AUTHORITY OF PINOCHET AND FORESTIER, BUT WHETHER THEY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT A DEAL OR SIMPLY PROBING TO SEE WHAT GROUND THERE MIGHT BE FOR THE QUOTE POLITICAL SOLUTION UNQUOTE TO THE LETELIER PROBLEM IS UNCLEAR. EVIDENTLY OUR REJECTION OF THE FIRST PROPOSAL CONVEYED

THROUGH ETCHEBERRY DID NOT DISCOURAGE WHOMEVER WILLOUGHBY IS REPRESENTING. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THESE QUESTIONS PRESENTED TO FERNANDEZ, EVEN IN THIS VERY INFORMAL MANNER, AND TO HAVE HIS REPLIES UPON WHICH TO BASE A JUDGMENT ON THE VALUE OF CONTINUING TO TALK. IF YOU AGREE, AND SEE NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN GOING AHEAD, YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PASS THE QUESTIONS ON TO MRS. WILLOUGHBY. OTHERWISE WE WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VIEWS ON HOW WE MIGHT OR SHOULD PROCEED.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PREPARE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, ON PAPER WITHOUT USG IDENTIFICATION, TO BE TRANSMITTED TO FERNANDEZ UPON RECEIPT OF FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. SUGGEST ETCHEBERRY BE BRIEFED AND BE ASKED TO PUT QUESTIONS INTO SPANISH.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: [REDACTED] STADIS
Document Number: 1979STATE112667

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5
Channel: n/a

Case Number: S200000044

- A) WHO GAVE YOU YOUR ORDERS TO GO TO PARAGUAY?
- B) WHO TOLD YOU THE PURPOSE OF YOUR MISSION TO PARAGUAY AND THEN THE U.S.?
- C) WHAT WAS THE PROPOSE OF THE JULY, 1976 TRIP WHEN YOU WERE SCHEDULED TO GO TO THE U.S.?
- D) HAD YOU BEEN TOLD ANYTHING AT THAT TIME BY ANYONE ABOUT A MISSION TO KILL ORLANDO LETELIER?
- E) DID YOU AND TOWNLEY HAVE ANY DISCUSSIONS DURING YOUR TRIP TO PARAGUAY ABOUT THE METHOD OR MEANS TO KILL

PAGE 06 STATE 112667

LETELIER?

F) HAD YOU EVER SPOKEN TO MANUEL CONTRERAS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21, 1976 ABOUT A PLAN TO KILL LETELIER? WHAT WAS SAID?

HAD YOU EVER SPOKEN TO PEDRO ESPINOZA BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21, 1976 ABOUT A PLAN TO KILL LETELIER?

HAD YOU EVER SPOKEN TO MICHAEL TOWNLEY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21, 1976 ABOUT A PLAN TO KILL LETELIER?

G) DID MANUEL CONTRERAS OR PEDRO ESPINOZA TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE MURDER AND THE FACT THAT THEY HAD ORDERED IT ANY TIME AFTER SEPTEMBER 21, 1976? VANCE

NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 5